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Ohio, and he noted that occasionally, as at Cabin John Bridge, Md., in 1900, sports are relatively very abundant. . . . If I had been so fortunate as to obtain his results, I would have drawn quite the opposite conclusions, and would have supported the mutation theory most loyally. . . . "

Aigner-Abafi (*Ann. Hist.-Nat. Mus. Nat. Hung.*, 4: 484–531, 1906) describes aberrations or varieties of 113 forms of Lepidoptera, many of which are figured. He aims to include only such as may be of interest to the student of evolution, but offers no suggestions as to their phylogeny which, he believes, should follow experimental researches. He considers that a knowledge of these forms collected in nature will be of great interest in connection with their production by experimental means.

Melanism has received particular attention among mutationists. Porritt (*Rep. Brit. Ass.*, 76: 316–332, 1907) has given a detailed account of the increase of melanism in Yorkshire Lepidoptera. The author confines himself strictly to recording the facts, some of which seem to support the mutation theory although others do not.

In all these cases it is observed that zoologists are cautious about applying the term *mutant* to variations found in nature. Although the teratological studies so popular a few years ago have gained a new significance through the discoveries of De Vries, real progress lies only in the cultivation of these aberrant forms and the recording of their behavior in successive generations under guarded conditions.

J. A. Harris.

Biology in the Journal of Agricultural Science.— Although the real progress of science cannot be properly estimated by the counting of titles of journals, some notion of the interest which is being shown in scientific matters and of the degree to which specialization has extended may be had from this very source. The appearance of the new *Journal of Agricultural Science* indicates that another field of research has become enlarged, and that this division of applied science acquires a more direct means of spreading its benefits.

The purpose of the journal is to afford a "general channel for the publication and discussion of papers bearing on agriculture." Papers on zoology, botany, bacteriology, chemistry physics or geology are accepted if they have a bearing upon the definitely scientific problems of agriculture, but no papers dealing with matters of an ordinary commercial or farming character as distinct from agricultural science are to be admitted. The first six numbers of the journal, fine specimens of the product of the Cambridge press, are now at hand.

The name of W. Bateson on the editorial staff is an assurance that the pages will contain much of interest to students of Mendelism. As a matter of fact, of the forty-seven signed papers ten are devoted mainly to discussions of this new field of experimental work. Biffin has a paper on Mendel's laws of inheritance in wheat breeding, and a supplementary note on the same subject. He discusses also the hybridization of the barleys, the inheritance of sterility in the barleys, and the inheritance of disease resistance. Butler contributes a paper on the bearing of Mendelism on the susceptibility of wheat to rust. The problem of disease resistance is taken up from the histological side by Marryat. Under the title "Hybridization of Cereals," Wilson reports Mendelian studies of oats and barley. Ball presents a note on Mendelian heredity in cotton. Humphries and Biffin discuss the improvement of English wheat. It will be noted that the Mendelian investigations reported are almost exclusively on cereals,— the group of agricultural plants where the results may be expected to have the highest economic importance. An exception is a paper by Wood on the inheritance of horns and face color in sheep.

Other papers of interest to botanists are an article on the influence of pollination in the development of the hop, by Howard; papers on the chemical composition of the swede and mangels, and a paper discussing the law of sequence in the yield of wheat.

A journal of this type should contribute greatly to agricultural progress; moreover it promises to be a mine of facts for the student of pure science.

J. A. Harris.

Notes.— *A new flora of Louisiana.* Students interested in the flora of Louisiana must often have regretted the very incomplete publications upon this subject. The "Florula Ludoviciana" of Rafinesque, and the books of Darby and Chapman all fall far short of treating it satisfactorily.

It will be good news that the newly formed Museum Commission of the State of Louisiana, which is charged with the duty of creating a State Museum in New Orleans, contemplates publishing every six months a volume dealing with the history and resources of the state, and that the first volume will be a Flora of Louisiana by Prof. Reginald S. Cocks. This gentleman has given many years of study and active personal research to the work, which would have been published some years since but for an unfortunate fire which destroyed a part of his material.

William Beer.